

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative practice

The valuable marine and coastal resources of the province of Aklan are already under severe stress. Pollution, overfishing, destructive and illegal fishing practices continue to pose strong threats to these fragile resources. There are two major CRM initiatives in the province – the Batan Bay CRM program and the CRM activities of the provincial CRM Team in the western parts of Aklan. The provincial government deemed it necessary to integrate these two on-going CRM initiatives in order to attain the essence of sustainable development and harmonious integration of a sound and viable economy, social cohesion, responsible governance, and ecological integrity.

Role of Implementing Organizations

Each municipality created a multi-sectoral TWG through an Executive Order to help plan and oversee implementation of the CRM program in the municipal level. Each municipality also provided a part of the budget for the mobilization of the TWGs. The Province of Aklan also created a provincial TWG to ensure timely implementation of key tasks. They provided funds, facilities, personnel, and other resources needed for the conduct of the training and workshops. They designated the Provincial CRM Team as the steering committee. The NGOs (PROCESS Foundation, USWAG Development Foundation, PAKISAMA, Arch. Gabriel Reyes Memorial Foundation) provided information, technical assistance, and committed their full support to the project. The People's Organizations (FARMC, fisherfolk associations) provided information and were involved in advocacy to ensure people's participation in the project. The NGAs (DENR, BFAR) committed to extend full support to the CRM Program.

How it works (Processes and Resources)

- Multi-sectoral TWGs (municipal and provincial levels) were created to spearhead planning and implementation of CRM program
- Strengthening of TWG and council members followed through the conduct of 3 workshop modules (orientation, resource appraisal, resource management options)
- The Provincial TWG is now in the process of coming up with a CRM Strategic Plan for the province using the participatory planning method
- The three pro-active LGUs of Nabas, Ibajay, and Tangalan are now modeling the way for a more meaningful inter-LGU collaboration in CRM. PROCESS Foundation facilitated the series of joint sessions being undertaken by this cluster: Assessment and Planning Workshops and Joint Sangguniang Bayan Sessions.

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

Comprehensive Coastal Area
Development Plan for the Coastal
Municipalities of Aklan

Location

Province of Aklan

Date Started

February 2000

Date Completed

September 2000

Estimated Cost:

LGU Cost: PhP 600,000 M

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How barriers/obstacles were overcome

- Coordination was a problem at the start. Municipal TWGs were not functional and seemed to be very busy with other priorities. The Provincial CRM Team failed to effectively act and function as the steering committee for the project due to budget constraints. It was only after the formal creation of the Provincial TWG that the project started to have focus.
- The initial success gained by the cluster municipalities of Nabas, Ibajay, and Tangalan really inspired other LGUs to seriously participate in this provincial-wide CRM initiative.

Details of benefits and results

- Aklan has a lot to share:eco-tourism in Boracay, mangrove reforestation in Kalibo and Environment-friendly aquaculture in Ibajay. The project provided a venue for LGUs to share their own CRM initiatives and come up with points of collaboration to better manage the coastal resources.
- The participatory CRM process really encouraged multi-sectoral participation. The fisherfolk through the MFARMC were amazed on their great contribution to the whole CRM process- from data generation and validation to planning and eventually to the implementation of CRM projects.



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